

Washington, DC—U.S. Congressman Mike Pence, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, issued the following statement today hailing the naming of the USS Indiana as one of the next five Virginia-class attack submarines:

"I congratulate my fellow Hoosiers, especially our state's sailors and submariners, as we welcome the USS Indiana to the Navy's fleet for the third time. Indiana has a proud naval tradition, as it is home to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division in Crane, Ind., which serves as the Navy's premier engineering, acquisition and sustainment organization in support of our maritime warriors. Today's recognition is a testimony to the Hoosier work ethic, patriotism and support for our men and women in uniform."

Background

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced today the next five Virginia-class attack submarines will be named the USS Illinois, the USS Washington, the USS Colorado, the USS Indiana, and the USS South Dakota. Mabus named the Virginia-class submarines to honor the great contributions and support these states have given the military through the years.

These next-generation attack submarines will provide the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century. They will have enhanced stealth, sophisticated surveillance capabilities, and special warfare enhancements that will enable them to meet the Navy's multi-mission requirements.

These submarines will have the capability to attack targets ashore with highly accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles and conduct covert long-term surveillance of land areas, littoral waters or other sea-based forces. Other missions include anti-submarine and anti-ship warfare; mine delivery and minefield mapping. They are also designed for special forces delivery and support.

Each Virginia-class submarine is 7,800-tons and 377 feet in length, has a beam of 34 feet, and can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. It is designed with a reactor plant that will not require refueling during the planned life of the ship, reducing lifecycle costs while increasing underway time. The submarines will be built in partnership with General Dynamics/Electric Boat Corp. SSN 786, 788 and 790 will be built by Electric Boat in Groton, Conn. SSN 787 and 789 will be built by Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Va.

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